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Application No.: 10/691,617
Docket No.: 17956-US-PA

To the Drawings:

Please substitute the attached clean drawing sheets of FIGS. 4 and 5 for the pending drawings of FIGS. 4 and 5. The missed reference signs 4 and 5 are included in the amended drawings.

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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed Nov. 15, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 1 and 4-10 as amended are respectfully requested.

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action requires an election between a first group (claims 1-10) and a second group (claims 11-20).

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p) (5) because they do not include reference signs 4 and 5 mentioned in the description.

The disclosure is objected to because of grammatical informalities.

Claims 3 and 6-8 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 (c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, 3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Admitted Prior Art.

Claims 1, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Muramoto et al., U.S. Pub. 2003/0178134.

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Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Tsutsumi et al., US Pat. 5,254,205.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Speer et al. WO 02/054398 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0050485).

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Speer et al. WO 02/053357 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0055701).

Discussion of Office Action Election/Restrictions

In response to the Office Election/Restrictions, Applicant hereby withdraws claims 11-20 without traverse.

Objection to the drawings

In response to the Office Action Objection to the drawings, Applicant submits that drawings FIGS. 4 and 5 have been amended as required by the Examiner. The amendments are fully supported by the specification. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the drawings are now in allowable form.

Objection to the Disclosure

In response to the objection to the disclosure on the basis of grammatical informalities, Applicant has followed the Examiner's instruction and appropriate correction from "those who

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skilled in the art" to "those who are skilled in the art" has been made (Page 9, line 9).
Accordingly, Applicant submits that the disclosure is now in allowable form.

Objection to Claims 3 and 6-8 under 37 CFR 1.75 (c)

In response to the objection to claims 3 and 6-8 under 37 CFR 1.75 (c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim, Applicant has hereby canceled claim 3 and claims 6-8.

Claims Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In response to the rejection to Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention, Applicant has amended claim 1 and canceled claim 2, wherein the unclear matter "low-pressure environment" has been deleted from claim 1, thus the rejections are moot.

Claims Rejections under 35 USC §102

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Claim 1, 3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Admitted Prior Art.

In response to the rejection to claim 1, 3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Admitted Prior Art, Applicant has amended claim 1, and has canceled claim 3, and hereby otherwise traverses this rejection. As such, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 5-8 are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 1, as amended, recites:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A flat-panel display (FPD) encapsulation apparatus, at least comprising:

a chamber having an airtight space ~~to provide a low pressure environment~~, the chamber comprising:

a housing, which connects to the pressing mechanism, wherein the second substrate is provided in the housing and attached to one end of the pressing mechanism, and the second substrate is moved in the housing according to the pressing mechanism;

a curing device disposed next to the housing and having a supporting portion to support the first substrate, wherein the curing device, the adhesive, and the housing form an operating space; and

a vacuum device, adapted for decreasing the pressure of the operating space down to lower than 1 atmosphere; and

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a pressing mechanism disposed within the chamber, wherein the pressing mechanism is operated in the ~~low-pressure environment~~ operating space.

Applicant submits that such a flat-panel display encapsulation apparatus as set forth in claim 1 is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by the Admitted Prior Art or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination.

The Examiner admitted that "the Admitted Prior Art is silent toward a housing that is connected to the pressing mechanism that forms an operating space with the curing device, a vacuum device that decreases the pressure of the operating space to form the low-pressure environment, and a controlling device that controls the vacuum device to adjust the pressure of the operating space" in the Office Action, thus claims 1, as amended, should not be considered as being anticipated by the Admitted Prior Art. Applicant hereby submits that the corresponding 102 rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Muramoto et al., U.S. Pub. 2003/0178134.

In response to the rejection to claims 1, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Muramoto et al., U.S. Pub. 2003/0178134, Applicant has amended claim 1 and hereby otherwise traverses this rejection. As such, Applicant submits that claims 1, 9 and 10 are now in condition for allowance.

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Applicant submits that such a flat-panel display encapsulation apparatus as set forth in claim 1 is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by Muramoto et al., U.S. Pub. 2003/0178134 or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Muramoto et al., U.S. Pub. 2003/0178134 fails to teach, disclose or suggest "a housing, which connects to the pressing mechanism, wherein the second substrate is provided in the housing and attached to one end of the pressing mechanism, and the second substrate is moved in the housing according to the pressing mechanism; a curing device disposed next to the housing and having a supporting portion to support the first substrate, wherein the curing device and the housing form an operating space; and a vacuum device, adapted for decreasing the pressure of the operating space down to lower than 1 atmosphere" (emphasis added).

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be novel, unobvious, and patentable over either the Admitted Prior Art or t Muramoto et al., U.S. Pub. 2003/0178134, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims Rejections under 35 USC §103

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Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Tsutsumi et al., US Pat. 5,254,205.

In response to the rejection to claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Tsutsumi et al., US Pat. 5,254,205, Applicant has deleted claim 2 and has rewritten claim 1 in corporation with most limitation of claim 2. Considering the Examiner rejected claim 1 using the Admitted Prior Art and rejected claim 2 using the Admitted Prior Art in view of Tsutsumi et al., US Pat. 5,254,205, Applicant hereby traverses the rejection and submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case for the obviousness of modifying the Admitted Prior Art with Tsutsumi et al., US Pat. 5,254,205 to arrive the subject matter of amended claim 1.

Firstly, Tsutsumi et al., US Pat. 5,254,205 fails to teach, disclose or suggest an **operating space formed by the curing device, and the housing** that is required by the present invention as set forth in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Secondly, Applicant holds that no motivation is provided by the Admitted Prior Art to modify Tsutsumi et al., US Pat. 5,254,205 to form an operating space with the curing device, the housing and the adhesive.

Thirdly, Tsutsumi et al. teach away from forming such an operating space. Tsutsumi et al., US Pat. 5,254,205 teaches, "through this kind of organization, there is no air disturbance on the **binding face** because the binding of the wafer and the carrier plate can be performed under

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reduced pressure (Column 2, lines 23-26)" (emphasis added). Applicant submits that Tsutsumi et al. employ reduced pressure to eliminate the air disturbance on the binding face, thus teaching away from forming an operating space thereby.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, as currently amended, incorporating with most subject matter of claim 2 as originally filed, is not rendered obvious by the Admitted Prior Art, in view of Tsutsumi et al., US Pat. 5,254,205, and therefore should be allowable in its current form.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Speer et al. WO 02/054398 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0050485). Claim 2 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Speer et al. WO 02/053357 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0055701).

In response to the rejection to claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Speer et al. WO 02/054398 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0050485) and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art in view of Speer et al. WO 02/053357 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0055701), Applicant has deleted claim 2 and has rewritten claim 1 in corporation with most limitation of claim 2. Considering the Examiner rejected claim 1 using the Admitted Prior Art and rejected claim 2 using the Admitted Prior Art respectively in view of Speer et al. WO 02/054398 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0050485) and Speer et al. WO 02/053357 (English translation: U.S.

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Pub. 2004/0055701), Applicant hereby traverses the rejections and submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case for the obviousness of modifying the Admitted Prior Art with either Speer et al. WO 02/054398 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0050485) or Speer et al. WO 02/053357 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0055701) to arrive the subject matter of amended claim 1.

Firstly, both of Speer et al. WO 02/054398 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0050485) and Speer et al. WO 02/053357 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0055701) fail to teach, disclose or suggest an **operating space formed by the curing device, and the housing** that is required by the present invention as set forth in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Secondly, Applicant holds that no motivation is provided by the Admitted Prior Art to modify either Speer et al. WO 02/054398 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0050485) or Speer et al. WO 02/053357 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0055701) to form an operating space with the curing device, the housing and the adhesive.

Thirdly, Applicant submits that both of Speer et al. WO 02/054398 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0050485) and Speer et al. WO 02/053357 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0055701) pump the chamber from ambient pressure to a desired underpressure to result in a relatively long cycle times for the joining together of the substrate, thus teaching away from forming an operating space thereby.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, as currently amended, incorporating with most subject matter of claim 2 as originally filed, is not rendered obvious by the Admitted Prior

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Art, in view of either Speer et al. WO 02/054398 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0050485) or Speer et al. WO 02/053357 (English translation: U.S. Pub. 2004/0055701), and therefore should be allowable in its current form.

If independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record, then its dependent claims 4-10 are allowable as a matter of law, because these dependent claims contain all features of their respective independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1 and 4-10 are in proper condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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